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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

A SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Accounts of increased food production, including high yields from Victory Gardens; utilization of farm-grown timber; achievements of 4-H Club members; and an intensive campaign for cattle-grub control feature this week's summary.

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KENTUCKY

January 15, 1944

Food production.-How to increase food production is major theme of Farm and Home Convention at university late in January. Better crops, higher-yielding grains, hybrid corn, study of improved farming methods, and problems of animal and poultry production will be discussed. Included also will be forum on post-war planning, and talks by persons who escaped from enemy-occupied countries.

Encouraging reports come from different parts of State telling of large number of farm families who produced 75 percent or more of their living on home farm. Two-thirds of all farm families in Anderson County produced three-fourths of their own food. Included were 418,000 quarts of canned food--46 quarts for every man, woman, and child in county. Also 200,000 pounds of potatoes were in storage. Eighty-five percent of farm families had ample supply of chickens, eggs, and milk. Approximately 500 families in Madison County and 825 in Mason County produced 75 percent of their farm living.

In Boyd County, 55 dairymen increased their production of dairy calves and heifers by 70 percent over 1942 and sold 25 percent more milk. Where dairy-herd-improvement association program was followed, annual increase of butterfat per cow was 61 pounds. In such herds, average production of butterfat per cow was 326 pounds, as compared with 175 pounds for all cows in State.

Victory Gardens.-Kentucky's Victory Gardens in 1943 produced food valued at \$132,000,000, and plans are under way to top that achievement in 1944. Rural gardens totaling 365,000 were evaluated at \$82,125,000. Urban gardens, numbering 255,000, were estimated to have produced \$48,881,000 worth of food. There were 3,000 city gardens, worth \$212,500, and 80,000 small Victory gardens probably worth \$800,000. Twice as many potatoes were stored as in any other year, and a third more sweetpotatoes.

Hybrid corn.-High rating of hybrid corn is indicated by reports from various parts of State. Despite excessive moisture early in season and dry weather later, farmers in Wolfe and Edmonson Counties had increased yield of 50 percent over open-pollinated varieties. In Green County, Arch Akin grew 1,000 bushels of Kentucky 102 on 10 acres. In Bath County, 85 percent of corn grown was hybrid; Union County, 85 to 90 percent; Hickman County 70 percent. In Pulaski County, 8,000 acres were planted to this crop.

Homemakers' activities.-Scores of homemakers in Caldwell County adopted time-saving methods so they might do more wartime work on farms or in communities. Of those reporting to home agent, 80 percent were giving equipment better care to prolong its usefulness; more than half put away seldom-used equipment for duration; 88 percent rearranged cupboards and other storage spaces to save time and work; more than half adopted time-saving methods in doing laundry; and a third worked more efficiently because they took frequent rest periods. Many Jessamine County homemakers had "fix-it" kits to save time and effort.

In Christian County, where 116 women are enrolled in WLA, women saved themselves estimated \$2,062 by sewing and by cleaning clothes at home. They cleaned 351 sewing machines and bought 121 new ones; cleaned 536 garments; died 569 pieces; remade 631 garments; and cleaned and repaired 2,757 items. From cotton sacks they made 1,179 articles. Carroll County homemakers estimated they saved approximately \$3,000 through home sewing.

Farm woman's market in Barren County in 1943 brought its contributors \$4,858, increase of \$2,173 over 1942.

4-H Clubs.-In Boone County 97 percent of 4-H Club members completed their projects for 1943. Boyle County members produced 51,000 pounds of beef in calf project. Pike County club members raised 41,527 chickens and 2,200 pigs, grew 1,575 gardens from which 179,000 quarts of food were canned, and produced 18,267 bushels of corn. Theodore Kunkel of Kenton County raised garden from which 495 quarts of vegetables were canned, 17 bushels of Irish potatoes and sweetpotatoes harvested, and \$45 worth of produce sold. He also raised 395 fryers and 35 pullets and cared for his laying flocks which produced 924 dozen eggs. He received \$98.43 for his fryers, and valued his chickens at home at \$218.

Good farming practices.-After using limestone, John Butler of Adair County got 3 tons of lespedeza hay to acre and wheat crop on same land. On unlimed land, he cut 1 ton of hay an acre. On 9/10 acre, given them by their father, Nolan and Dan Beningsfield, of Taylor County, harvested 1,814 pounds of tobacco which sold for \$57 per 100 pounds. Beds were twice treated with lime bluestone; 20 loads of manure were spread; and 400 pounds of 4-12-8 fertilizer used in rows. Cletus Moss of Carlisle County doubled hay yield in 2 years by adding 10 tons of rock phosphate to his field. Carl Jones of same county estimates his 40 acres of balbo rye, seeded last August, has pasture value of \$400 for 17 milk cows and also will provide seed crop.

TEXAS
January 1, 1944

Field crops.--Principal year-end agronomy work was in promoting winter legume program for soil improvement, and proper sweetpotato storage. Total of 2,899,042 pounds of legume seed, including hairy, Willamette, and common vetch, Austrian winter peas, hubam and annual yellow-blossom sweetclover, along with 16,000 tons of 20 percent superphosphate or its equivalent, was delivered to Texas farmers through AAA. Seed bought from dealers, or home-grown, made total fall planting about 4 million pounds. Part of sweetpotato crop was marketed uncured, and marketable remainder was cured in regular storage houses and empty buildings. About 1 million bushels were placed in storage for winter marketing. No sweetpotatoes were bought by Food Distribution Administration, as market prices remained well above support prices.

Final USDA crop report for 1943 showed 23,921,000 acres of Texas crops harvested despite acute labor and farm machinery shortages. This compared with 26,414,000 acres in 1942, and 27,417,000 for 1932-41 10-year average. Combined yield-per-acre index of all crops, except vegetables, was 10 percent below record year of 1942, mainly because of prolonged dry weather, yet was 6 percent above 10-year average. Corn and grain sorghum, two of principal grain crops, showed increase of 22,000,000 bushels over 1942, and 51,381,000 bushels over 10-year average. Total production of two crops was 160,233,000 bushels. Production of oats and barley, two other main feed grains, though reduced by severe cold last winter, amounted to 25,121,000 bushels. Principal farm crops for human food, wheat and rice, produced 56,652,000 bushels, as compared with 10-year average of 37,753,000 bushels. White potatoes and sweetpotatoes made record yield of 12,066,000 bushels as compared with 10-year average of 8,124,000 bushels.

Victory Gardens.--Annual reports of county extension agents show Victory Garden production during 1943 in Texas set new high in number and yield. Estimated value of Victory Garden demonstrations alone was \$6,650,324. More than 2,000 subject-matter demonstrations, for training leaders and producers, helped to bring this result. In 7,000 Victory Garden contests more than \$5,000 worth of war bonds, stamps, and other prizes was given.

Farm forestry.--Demonstration in utilization of farm-grown and farm-processed timber and lumber, begun by Austin County agent before war, has shown practical results in war period. Extension farm forester describes it as "most satisfactory farm forestry plan in operation" in State. County has 13 community saw-mills and 76,130 acres of farm woodlands, mostly hardwoods. Agent has conducted demonstrations in prechemical treating of hardwoods to reduce checking and splitting in drying, and farmers have done considerable preservative treating of oak, elm, pecan, and willow fence posts with zinc chloride. Farmers are using home-sawed lumber for chicken houses, log houses, barns, fencing, and other equipment. Common practice among Austin County farmers is to use hardwood lumber in furniture handicraft and for interior finish of homes. County commissioners bought hardwood logs from farmers and hauled them to community mills for shaping into bridge timbers and planks. One farmer demonstrator made number of children's wagons from home-produced lumber and is completing contract for 5,000 stick horses for children.

In east Texas pine region, county agents have cooperated with State and Federal forest services more than ever before in forest fire prevention campaigns on lands other than farm woodlands. Plan for timber work by farmers in war effort prepared by extension farm forester was reprinted by War Labor Board and distributed to other States. Extensive work has been done by farm forester in developing information on preservative treatment of fence posts and other woods used on farms, fair scaling of trees and logs, practical timber cutting and logging on farms, farm sawmilling, and farm wood studies and wood uses for farms.

4-H Club achievements.--County extension agents report Texas 4-H Club boys produced and sold from their 1943 demonstrations livestock and livestock products valued at \$1,639,866.⁴⁵--representing enough meat for 15,106 fighting men for 1 year. Total of 19,556 club boys reported collecting 13,809,378 pounds of scrap, estimated as equal to scrap in 27,619 1-ton block-buster bombs, or 276,187 50-caliber machine guns, or 863 light tanks. In coastal area, 643 boys acted as volunteer airplane spotters, and 1,907 took lessons in first aid. War bonds and stamps worth \$463,063.²⁴ were bought by 16,730 club boys. Although complete records are not available, individual narratives indicate that 4-H Club girls produced more food, helped with more general farm work, and did more in conservation than ever before. About 8,000 more girls are engaged in 4-H Club work than a year ago. About 10,000 awards of honor for outstanding wartime production work were given 4-H Club girls in November and December in accordance with plans developed by club members.

Cattle-grub control.--Intensive campaign for cattle-grub control is being carried on in 210 of the 240 counties that have agricultural agents. To get largest number of cattle treated and obtain best distribution of information on methods and results of grub treatment, 4-H Club demonstration teams were trained in control work. In turn they trained other club boys as well as farmers. As individuals and in teams, they demonstrate control in home communities, thus reaching virtually every farm and ranch in State. By mid-December, 14,443 4-H Club boys had been trained, and 15,302 adults had attended one method demonstration. Large number of cattle are expected to be treated for grubs this season.

Cotton ginning.--Long-time custom of awarding premium to farmer bringing in season's first bale of cotton was abandoned in Lavaca County this year because of urge for better-quality cotton. Instead of favoring first bale, businessmen subscribing to premium cooperated with county agricultural agent, 26 ginners, Extension Service specialists, and U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory, in designating cash prizes for farmers and ginners producing best 50 bales. Objective was to lay plans for improving cotton and ginning. Prizes were divided about 60-40 between farmer and ginner. Minimum requirements were middling 15/16-inch cotton, and spinning utility as determined by laboratory. Program was so successful it will be expanded in 1944.

Goats.--State-wide program for flock improvement through selection, development, and proper distribution of bucks has been started with 4-H Club boys in Angora goat country. Beginning with bucks at kid age, feeding period will extend well into summer of 1944, when animals should meet requirements of sires for fall breeding season. Program will permit two shows yearly, second one possibly having sales feature. First show will be held in February, and county agents who have boys exhibiting will decide location and date of next. Premium money will

be provided by individuals and institutions interested in improving quality of mohair. Agents accordingly can have show anywhere since community chosen will not have to provide premium money. Show is planned to promote program, not program to fit show. Only registered animals are involved, and emphasis is on quality. Twenty billy kids have been bought for demonstrators, and other boys are developing kids from their own or fathers' flocks.

Agricultural engineering.-County agents report plan prepared by extension agricultural engineer on emergency pumping arrangements has been put into use by scores of farmers. Number of farmers have made practical use of plan of home-made bulldozer for row tractor. Several agents have noted unusual amount of remodeling and rebuilding of small farm structures for livestock and poultry. Much of this building is with second-hand material and from plans furnished by agents.

Home industries.-Important phase of home industries program for 1943 was training of home demonstration agents by extension home industries specialist for study program on (a) value of home-grown cereal as compared with equal amount of same cereal commercially prepared, and (b) study of labels for sirup. Study of cereal was included in program of home demonstration clubs in more than 100 counties. As consequence of sirup study, thousands of Texas farm and ranch families have greater appreciation of home-produced sirup, and those who buy sirup demand pure-cane product. They also have developed appreciation for home-ground cereals, which have been found more economical and usually possess greater nutritional value.

Home landscaping.-Interest in rural landscaping remains active despite wartime restrictions on time and travel. Extension specialist in landscape gardening reports home demonstration club members so anxious for landscaping that they are willing to spend some of their limited gasoline to get it started. Recently, all members of a club in Burleson County attended demonstration by specialist and home demonstration agent and studied plans for landscaping a farm home. Specialist helped in preparing plans for landscaping hospital area at Bryan Army Airfield. Thirty-six persons, including two high-school classes in home economics, attended demonstration by Lee County home demonstration agent and studied plans for landscaping a farm home,

Negro activities.-Killing, cutting, and curing of pork constituted major demonstration by negro extension workers during fall and early winter. They killed, dressed, and cured 89 hogs "A and M way" at 22 demonstrations in Hopkins County, and 5 at 4 demonstrations in DeWitt County. Beef slaughtering was coupled with hog killing at 5 demonstrations in Grimes County, and poultry culling featured method demonstrations in Milam, Chambers, and Smith Counties. Ten men in two Hopkins County communities, taught to cure meat "A. and M. way," are now teaching neighbors. Curing "A. and M. way" calls for 8 pounds salt, 3 pounds sugar, and 3 ounces saltpeter per 100 pounds of meat. Grimes County negro agricultural agent was assisted by 20 farm men in demonstrations on slaughtering, cutting, and curing beef and pork. Reports from 48 counties that have negro agents show Texas negro 4-H Club boys in 1943 more than doubled their production of swine over 1942. They fed 10,057 pigs valued at \$402,280. Of these, 2,025 were butchered for home consumption, and 6,050 were marketed. They have on hand 4,032 head, one-third of which are brood sows. Giles Edwards of Fort Bend County made more than \$700 from his swine in past 18 months and at same time supplied his family with pork.

